

UNDER

THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT 1908

IN THE MATTER OF

**ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO
BUILDING FAILURE CAUSED BY
CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKES**

**KOMIHANA A TE KARAUNA HEI TIROTIRO I
NGA WHARE I HORO I NGA RUWHENUA O
WAITAHA**

AND IN THE MATTER OF

THE CTV BUILDING COLLAPSE

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF MATTHEW DOMINIC ROSS
IN RELATION TO THE CTV BUILDING**

DATE OF HEARING: COMMENCING 25 JUNE 2012

**STATEMENT OF MATTHEW DOMINIC ROSS
IN RELATION TO THE CTV BUILDING**

1. My name is Matthew Dominic Ross and I reside in Christchurch. I am the director of Window Covering Installations Ltd.
2. I was stopped in my van on Cashel Street when I saw the CTV Building (the Building) collapse on 22 February 2011.

22 February

3. I was driving my van west down Cashel Street and was approaching the Madras Street intersection when the earthquake struck.
4. I have prepared a plan of the intersection of Madras and Cashel Streets (the Plan). This is attached and marked "A". Blackwell Motors, the Church and the IRD building have not been drawn to scale and their placement is approximate only. The issues that I refer to in my evidence are marked on this plan.
5. My first concern was that the Church would fall and land on my van. To get out of its way I turned the van so that I was in the middle of Cashel Street on about a 45 degree angle facing north-west. I have marked my approximate position as "1" on the Plan.
6. I stayed in the van and held on to the steering wheel. I was focused on the Church because I was concerned it was going to collapse and land on me. After about 10 seconds of shaking I turned to my right to see if there were any other dangers. It was then that I saw the CTV Building.
7. I could see the east side of the Building and part of the south side. The first thing I noticed was that the top was bending over towards Madras Street. I knew it was going to fall down.

8. The shaking was long and vigorous. There was a really firm jolt and it was then that the Building started to collapse.
9. I thought the Building was going to collapse over Madras Street so was surprised when it seemed to drop straight down.
10. Dust began rising up from the ground as the top of the Building began to drop. I think one of the bottom levels of the Building must have collapsed first. I could see the top floors were intact as they disappeared into the dust.
11. I did not see any columns breaking.
12. Approximately 15-20 seconds later the earthquake stopped. I got out of my van and checked for any injuries at the Church. A minute later I moved towards the CTV Building to do the same. I could see people walking off the top of the rubble.
13. There was a large aftershock approximately 2 minutes after the main earthquake. A policeman wanted everyone to leave the site and told us to head to Latimer Square. I remained at the site for another 5 minutes before I got in my van and left.
14. I did not see any smoke or fire.

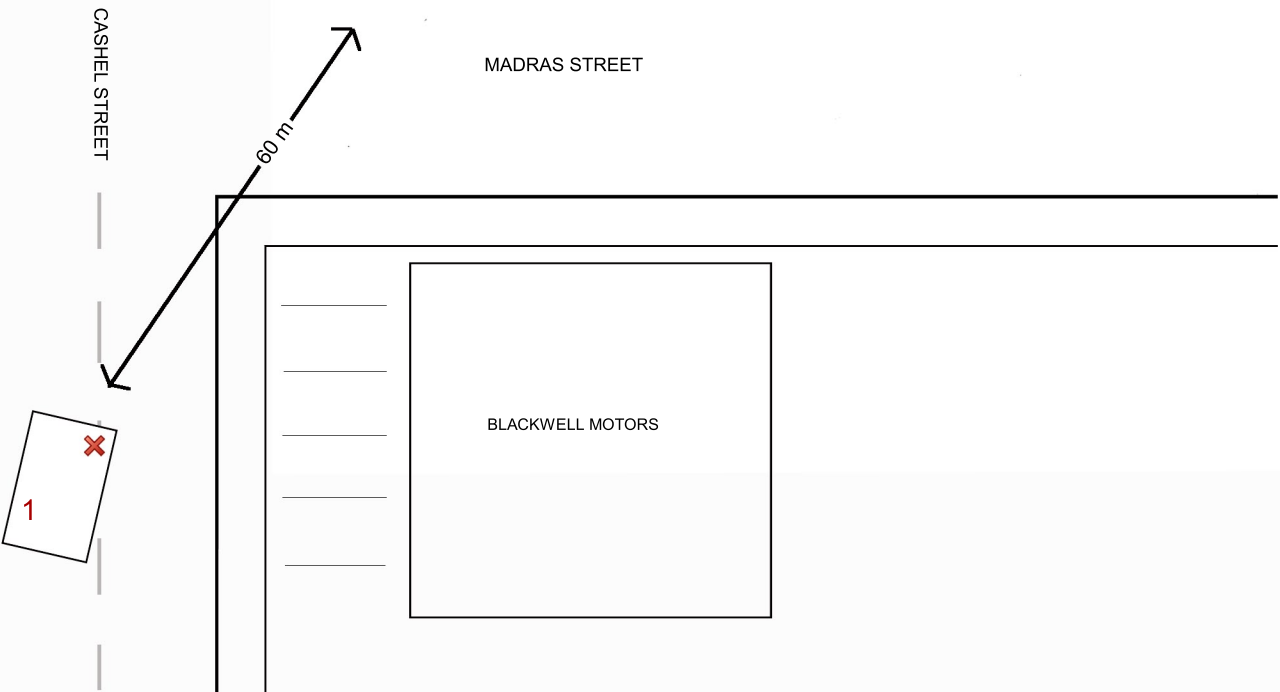
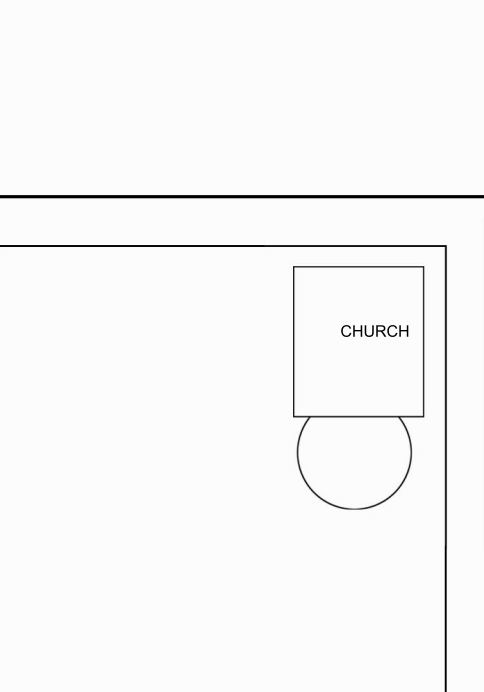
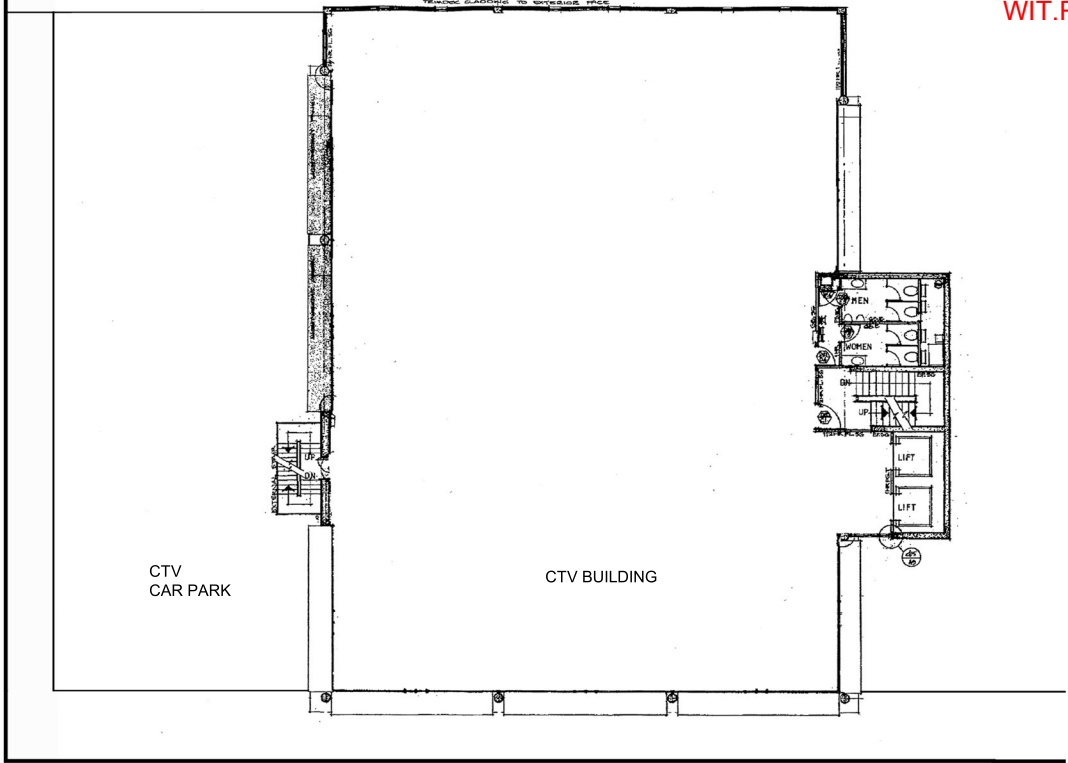
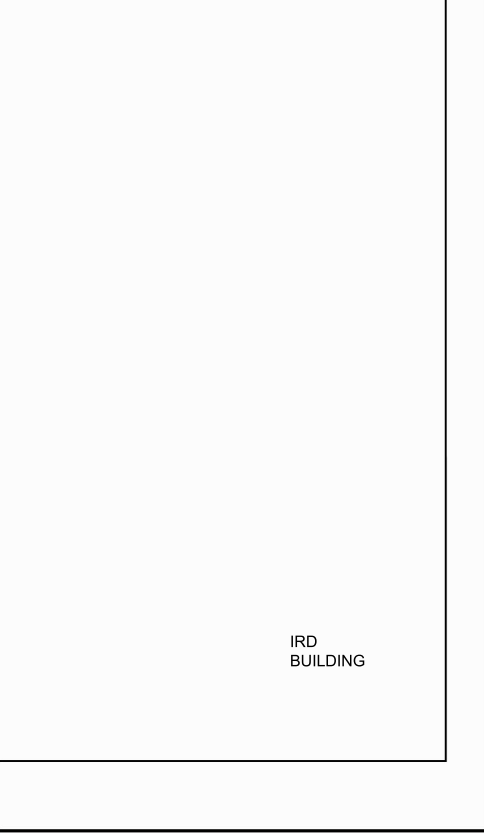
Signed:



MATTHEW ROSS

Date:

16-5-2012



KEY
 1. Location of Matthew Ross

PLAN NOT TO SCALE
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